

City College News

August, 1984

George Brown support staff split in strike mandate vote

George Brown support staff are evenly split on the question of a strike.

In voting on Aug. 14, 134 people voted to give their union executives a mandate to call a strike, 134 people voted against a mandate, according to local Vice President Marg Hinchcliffe.

Province-wide, 4,500 support staff members from all of Ontario's 22 community colleges voted 55.5 per cent in favour of a strike mandate.

The support staff union - the Ontario Public Service Employees Union - is now in a position to call a legal strike when the current contract with the Council of Regents for the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology expires at the end of August.

Negotiations for a new one-year contract began in late spring between the two sides.

Support staff voted overwhelmingly in June to reject what was called a final offer from provincial government negotiators that included pay increases of three and four per cent depending on job classification.

The union is seeking larger pay increases and greater job security, including limits on contract and part-time employment in Colleges.

A mediator is expected to be appointed in the dispute.

The 268 people who voted at George Brown on Aug. 14 made up about 65 per cent of the total membership of OPSEU locals 557.

Across the province about 73 per cent of the union's members voted on the issue.

A mediator is also expected to be appointed in negotiations between the Council of Regents and OPSEU locals representing 7,200 faculty members at Ontario community colleges.

A contract between the two sides is also due to expire at the end of August.



Second-year jewellery arts student Heike Raschl-Labreque created the trophy (inset) given to the winner of the Lake Ontario Tall Ships race.

Student creates tall ships race trophy

A George Brown jewellery student designed and produced the trophy given to the winner of the Tall Ships race across Lake Ontario this summer.

Heike Raschl-Labreque, 25, spent two weeks creating the copper, silver and aluminum trophy that now belongs to the owners of the 62-foot schooner 'Defiance' in Stamford, Connecticut.

Manned by Captain Ken Shaw and a crew of eight, the training ship took top honours in the Toronto - Rochester - Kingston race that ended on July 16.

Twenty sailing vessels took part in the handicapped two-leg race — the first of its kind to be held on Lake Ontario.

Raschl-Labreque won the trophy commission in an informal competition

among artisans at Harbourfront, where she is a resident artist this summer.

Race sponsors were impressed by her contemporary design — triangular pieces of silver and aluminum tubes cut from a 15-inch square slab of copper that is etched with nautical maps.

Making the trophy earned Raschl-Labreque \$1,500, and gave her experience creating a large sculptural work.

Most of the jeweller's current work involves small geometric shapes in a variety of materials including copper, silver, gold, aluminum and rubber.

She attributes her recent use of coloured anodized aluminum to the influence of George Brown instructor Akira Ikegami, who favours the material.



PHOTO: MARIO RODRIGUEZ

Students in the Energy Conversion program examine solar panels on the roof of Casa Loma that can produce 1,000 watts of power.

Interest reviving in alternate energy

Fast-buck artists have retarded the adoption of alternative forms of energy in Canada, according to the Coordinator of George Brown's Energy Conversion Program.

Prompted by skyrocketing oil prices in the 1970s, many companies started touting solar panels and bio-gas as energy cure-alls, Zack Bajin says.

For the most part, the equipment they sold was poorly designed and inefficient, he says.

While the Canadian public and industry backed-off from alternative energy sources, countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia developed efficient techniques for extracting heat or power from the sun or organic material, Bajin says.

"We're back to square one trying to convince the public that - in some areas this is appropriate technology."

Graduates of George Brown's program - the first class graduated this summer - are trained to apply this transferred technology to the needs of Canadian industry.

Currently, Canada lags 10 to 15 years behind other countries in adopting solar or other alternate sources of energy, Bajin says.

According to one estimate, between 5 and 10 per cent of the world's energy needs will be met by alternate sources by the end of the century.

The emphasis in George Brown's program - which is unique to North America - is to teach students how to convert energy efficiently from one form to another.

For instance, the energy from the sun is converted into a chemical form in the leaves of plants. That energy is released when the plant material breaks down, and can be harnessed using the right technology.

To know how to effectively harness this potential energy, students in the three-year program spend 60 per cent of their time studying conventional methods of electrical and mechanical engineering.

The remainder is spent learning how to use the specialized equipment - such as the solar panels on the roof of Casa Loma - that converts energy from nonconventional sources into usable forms.

Some of the nine graduates of the program have found jobs working for the provincial government or for consulting engineers as alternate energy specialists.

O'Neill developed testing service

Michael O'Neill impressed his co-workers with both his professional dedication as a vocational counsellor and his personal charm.

O'Neill died in early July after a brief illness; he was 36.

He had joined the College as a placement counsellor at Casa Loma in 1980, later transferring to the Test Centre shortly before it moved to College Street in 1981.

O'Neill was involved in developing and running the Vocational Testing Service, a group that provides testing and counselling services to individuals or companies.

"The work was Mike's and the success of it was Mike's," said Test Centre Manager Ray Danley.

"He had a remarkable wit, a great sense of humour, and a lot of charm."

O'Neill obtained an MA in counselling from Queen's University in Kingston.

He worked for the Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded and the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded as a caseworker.

Buck: "a nice guy"

Arthur Buck, who taught meat-cutting for 18 years at Kensington Campus, died of cancer in mid-July.

Buck, who was 64, learned his trade in a family-owned butcher's shop on Davenport Road. He joined the Provincial Institute of Trades — George Brown's forerunner — as a meat-cutting instructor in 1966.

Regarded as an authority in the trade, Buck often appeared on television to demonstrate meat-cutting methods. He worked as a consultant for Loblaw's, the Ontario Pork Council and the Ontario Turkey Board.

But his main interest was the welfare of his students, said Hospitality Dean Martin Kerman. "He had empathy for students and always listened to their problems. He was a father figure."

"He was a nice guy to work with," said Meat-cutting program Coordinator Jim Coole.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and three daughters.

Pay cheques passé with new system

Starting in October, a lot of George Brown employees won't get pay cheques.

They'll still be paid, but they'll have decided to have their pay automatically deposited in their bank accounts by the College.

It's a new system for George Brown, but it has proven both popular and successful at other colleges and private companies.

Payroll Manager Dudley Campbell says the system saves time for both employees — less time spent in bank line-ups — and the College.

"Eventually it's going to make it a lot easier for us," he said.

Already, more than a hundred staff members have signed up for the option, and Campbell predicts that more than half the College staff of about 1,500 will make a similar choice by mid-September.

"Our ultimate goal is to have 100 per cent," he says.

Staff who are interested in having their pay automatically deposited should fill out forms available from divisional or department secretaries.

Employees who still like to get their cheques can do so, Campbell says.

"We aren't coercing anyone to come aboard."

Call the payroll office at ext. 2297 for more information.

New programs

New full-time programs offered by the College this fall are:

Architectural Technology - A one-year add-on to the existing Architectural Technician - Drafting program that gives students more training in computer design.

Clockmaking - A two-year program offered at St. James by the Fashion Division teaches students to regulate, repair and restore clocks.

Retail Management - A two-year Business program that teaches students the theory and practice of managing retail stores.

Publications redesigned, reorganized

George Brown is making its publications easier to use and easier to look at, according to College Public Relations Officer Kadi Kaljuste.

"We've re-designed both the full-time and part-time calendars to make the information about our programs and courses more accessible."

The contemporary design of the material will also boost the College's image in the public eye, she says.

The Continuing Education and Marketing Division has published five major publications over the last few months.

The Division is also producing a 15-minute film to be shown in high schools that will be ready this fall, Kaljuste said.

Copies of any of the following publications can be obtained by calling Kaljuste at ext. 3240.



George Brown - The City College This full-colour brochure was sent to 20,000 applicants to the College's post-secondary programs this spring. It contains descriptions of George Brown's campuses, facilities, services and student activities. It is designed to acquaint the applicant - who may have never visited the College - with some aspects of College life.



George Brown Update - This one-page folder was mailed to all new and returning students in July. It contains articles about College services, orientation events, and reminders about registration deadlines. About 9,000 copies were distributed.



George Brown Review - This new external information magazine was mailed to 6,000 people in June including members of College advisory committees, government officials, executives in business and industry, and high school guidance counsellors. The inaugural 12-page issue featured an interview with new Ontario Youth Commissioner Ken Dryden. It will be published three times a year.



Full-time Calendar The 1985/86 Full-time Calendar will include both post-secondary and short programs for the first time in several years. It has also been re-designed in a pocketbook-sized format for easier handling. About 60,000 copies of the 240-page Calendar will be distributed through the high school liaison office, admissions offices and the information services department. (They will be available in September.)



Fall Continuing Education Directory Courses in this directory have been put under subject headings (e.g. Computer Studies) instead of under Divisional titles. This is to make it easier for students who aren't familiar with the College's internal structure to find courses. About 300,000 copies of the 100-page Directory are being distributed through the post office, admissions offices and the information services department.

Names in the News



Marie Walker and Brenda Yip in finance, and Albert Kurtz in the Registrar's office. Other new support staff appointments include Lorraine Mazzocato in library services, Kenneth Knetchel in the Hospitality Division, Dawn Squires with OCAP, Helen Tremblay with the Business Division, and Richard Zaleschuk with printing services.

Internal transfers include: Kathy Bidell from English and Liberal Studies at St. James to Industrial Training at Adelaide; Nancy Charbonneau, who left the Registrar's Office to join the Math and Science Division at St. James; Donna Fundy, who went from the Personnel Office to the Hospitality Division, Marg Hinchliffe, who went from the Admissions office at Casa Loma to the Admissions office of St. James; Lori Homewood has moved up one floor at St. James from the Business to the English and Liberal Studies Division; Barbara Mellor has transferred from a faculty position in the Health Sciences Division at St. James; Muriel O'Connor has gone from Admissions at St. James to the finance department at MacPherson; and Linda Sardo has joined the Personnel Office after a time with OCAP on Adelaide Street.

Casa Loma Health Sciences Instructor Yvette Mothersole is now Yvette Jones.

Leaving the College are Anand Bahl, Lorraine Dennis, Peter Gildea, Kim Harris, Penelope Hlywka, Jan Koskie, Edward LaRoque, Lee-Ann McLaughlin, Donna Mejus, and Glenna Perry.

George Brown Safety Officer Jack Nieolle (left) who is also chairman of the College, University and School Safety Council of Ontario (CUSSCO), recently presented College President Doug Light with a certificate of membership in the Council. Ron Angus (far right) presented a similar certificate to George Brown Director of Campuses Brian Beetles. The CUSSCO newsletter, which was produced with some help from George Brown staff, recently won an award of excellence from the American Campus Safety Association.

A George Brown graduate has been appointed to the Board of Governors of Scarborough's Centennial College. Lawyer Dena Moyal has a BA in psychology as well as a diploma in Child Care Work.

Vincent Institute of Trades in 1966 as an instructor in quantity surveying and construction economics. His immediate plans for retirement involve a trip to Europe where his three daughters are working in the theatre.

St. James sessional English teacher Eva McCarney recently had her second book of poetry published by Thistledown Press in Saskatoon. Titled *Prophecies Near The Speed of Light*, the book is published under nom de plume of Eva Tihanyi.

Kensington caretaking staff member Benjamin Webster retired recently after 14 years with George Brown. Health problems side-lined "Benny", as his colleagues called him, from active service for the last two years. "He is a friendly type of guy and a good worker," commented Campus Manager Al Cockburn.

Another recent retiree is John Pert, who taught construction technology with the College for 18 years. Pert joined the Pro-

Graduates of the College's teacher training program are: Damian Wiechula, Peter Wan, Robert Visentini, Heather Urquhart, Rita Rossi, Brian Richmond, Robert Paolini, John Kitchener, Bill Gibson, Don McQueen, John McMahon, Alexander Boyd, Chris Lippert, Olive Masters, Avrille Headley, John Rozenburg, Mike Bennett and John Nichol.

The Personnel Office has told us of the following staff changes:

New faculty in the visual arts section of the Graphic Arts Division are Richard Chretien, Esmond Johnson, Jerome McNicholl and William Southern. Joining support staff at MacPherson are

Photo: Neil McGillivray

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